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Application No.: 09/649,122
Filed: August 28, 2000
TC Art Unit: 3626
Confirmation No.: 7057

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REMARKS

In view of the foregoing Amendment, reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

The status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-14, 22-24, and 29-45 are currently pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended.

The Applicants have amended base claim 1 to address issues raised during a telephone conference between the Examiner and the undersigned Applicants' Attorney, which took place on October 31, 2006. During the telephone conference, the Examiner pointed out that the step of "determining peaks", as recited in claim 1, lacked antecedent basis. For this reason, the Applicants have amended claim 1 to delete the phrase "determining peaks". The Applicants respectfully point out that the step of determining peaks is subsequently recited in claim 29, which depends from amended claim 1.

During the telephone conference, the Examiner also requested that the Applicants indicate the passage or passages contained in the instant application that provide support for a valley's "rounding cost", as recited in amended base claim 1. To that end, the Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to page 29, lines

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WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,
GAGNEBIN & LEDOVICI LLP
TEL. (617) 542-2290
FAX. (617) 451-0313

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16-17, of the application, which include the statement "...each valley's rounding cost is determined as a function of the rounding costs of the [data] points within the valley...". The Applicants also direct the Examiner's attention to page 29, lines 4-5, of the application, which include the statement "...each data point is ranked based on the difficulty of rounding the remainder for the point". For example, suppose that a forecaster works with 15-minute periods, and that 18 minutes are forecasted for a particular data point. The forecast is then rounded up to $15 \times 2 = 30$ minutes, and the "remainder" is $30 - 18 = 12$. The points most difficult to round are ranked highest. For example, suppose all remainders have a value between 0 and 14 and round-down and round-up options are both available. The remainder values of 7 and 8 are the most difficult to round up or down. Hence, data points having these remainders are ranked highest. The remainder values of 6 and 9 are ranked in the second position, and so on (see also page 29, lines 1-3 and 6-11, of the application).

The Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the instant application provides support for a valley's "rounding cost", which, as described in the application, can be determined as a function of the rounding costs of the data points within the

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valley, as discussed above. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that base claim 1, as amended, should be allowed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned Attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

CHANDAN ADHIKARI ET AL.

By: 

Stanley M. Schurgin
Registration No. 20,979
Attorney for Applicants

WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,
GAGNEBIN & LEOVICI LLP
Ten Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109
Telephone: (617) 542-2290
Telecopier: (617) 451-0313

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WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,
GAGNEBIN & LEOVICI LLP
TEL. (617) 542-2290
FAX. (617) 451-0313